



## TALKING POINTS

### **KEY ISSUES RELATING TO THE BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT WOOD SMOKE REGULATIONS**

Thank you for the opportunity to present several important points of information that relate to Rule 3.

1. Up to 98% of the PM 2.5 that can be attributed to wood smoke is created by gross polluters which include older Open Fireplaces, Non-EPA certified wood heaters and agriculture burning. These gross polluters should be the primary targets for control measures.
2. **Use “That creates Visible Emissions” as part of the defining language in the curtailment section.** Change Section 6-3-301 to read: “No person shall operate (combust wood or solid fuel products in) any wood burning device that creates visible emissions during a curtailment period.” Using Visible Emissions as the measure for compliance DOES NOT equal an exemption for EPA certified wood and pellet appliances. It requires that these appliances must be used responsibly.
3. Homeowners who choose to use solid fuel (wood or wood products) as a heating resource must be able to use Clean Burn technologies that do not create Visible Emissions. These products include EPA-certified woodstoves and pellet stoves.
4. **There is a flawed assumption by the air district that natural gas might eventually replace ALL solid fuel usage.** That's simply not realistic. Many homeowners still choose to use solid fuels for a large variety of reasons. Lower heating costs, the desire to use a renewable locally produced fuel source, and the increased popularity of bio-mass fuels as a way to curb global warming, to name a few.
5. Enforcement of Rule 3 episodic mandatory curtailments will use **Visible Emissions** to trigger citations. The potential use of clean burn technologies during mandatory curtailment episodes will not add to enforcement costs or trigger additional citations.
6. Clean Burning EPA certified appliances are lumped in with Gross Polluters during mandatory curtailment episodes even though they do not create Visible Emissions. **Failing to separate Clean Burning technologies from Gross Polluters REMOVES any incentive for homeowners** to upgrade their appliances which will keep Gross Polluters operating in the air shed for many more years to come. In essence, **Rule 3 discourages the replacement of old polluters.**

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## Here is what you can do:

**FIRST**, write a letter to any or all of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District board members and expressed your own concerns. A helpful, sample letter template is available to make it easier.

**SECOND**, call the BAAQMD board member from your area. They are your elected representative and they work for you!

**THIRD**, call again. Your Voice is the **ONLY WAY** you can affect a change and your representative needs to hear what **YOU** want changed.

## ASK FOR THESE CHANGES:

1. Use **“That creates Visible Emissions”** as part of the defining language in the **curtailment section**. Change Section 6-3-301 to read: “No person shall operate (combust wood or solid fuel products in) any wood burning device ***that creates visible emissions*** during a curtailment period.” Using **Visible Emissions** as the measure for compliance DOES NOT equal an exemption for EPA certified wood and pellet appliances. It requires that these appliances must be used responsibly.
2. **Create a Public Outreach message to begin November 1** and extend through the end of February that asks all homeowners “Please Do Not Smoke...everyday and every night...for all our Health’s Sake.” This is a Simple Message that is clear and easy to understand and challenges everybody, including wood burners, to make positive right choices before we reach unhealthy air quality. This would act as a **Voluntary Curtailment** and stay in place from November through the end of February. The message reflects the same message that is used during a Mandatory Curtailment Episode...without enforcement and citation. The message will have Consistency and Clarity.
3. **Include EPA certified wood heaters and pellet heaters in the Incentive Program** to motivate those homeowners ***who still choose to use solid fuel*** as an energy resource to terminate the use of their gross polluters and change out to a clean burn technology appliance.

Thank you for your concern for the quality of the air we breathe.

To: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Air District Board Member,

**Please alter Rule 3 in the following ways:**

1. **Use “That creates Visible Emissions” as part of the defining language in the curtailment section.** Change Section 6-3-301 to read: “No person shall operate (combust wood or solid fuel products in) any wood burning device *that creates visible emissions* during a curtailment period.” Using **Visible Emissions** as the measure for compliance DOES NOT equal an exemption for EPA certified wood and pellet appliances. It requires that these appliances must be used responsibly.
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3. **Include EPA certified wood heaters and pellet heaters in the Incentive Program** to motivate those homeowners *who still choose to use solid fuel* as an energy resource to terminate the use of their gross polluters and change out to a clean burn technology appliance.

Thank you for consideration of my requests.

Regards,

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